

RESPONSE TO A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROTECTION ORDER PETITION

King County Family Law Facilitators: Instruction # F-14
Revised Code of Washington 26.50
King County Local Family Law Rules

STEP 1: COMPLETE THE REQUIRED FORMS AND DOCUMENTS

- [Declaration form, WPF DRPSCU 01.0100](#)
Use this form to tell the Court your response to the allegations in the Petition. Others may submit their own Declarations on your behalf. You may also submit any other supporting evidence or documentation that you think may be helpful to your case.
- **Other Evidence.**
Other evidence such as police, court or hospital records may be submitted on your behalf. Refer to this information in your Declaration and attach a copy of the document to your Declaration form.

STEP 2: TALK TO AN ATTORNEY, IF POSSIBLE

These instructions are not a substitute for legal advice. The laws and court rules are complex and following these instructions will not guarantee you a favorable result. It is always advisable to talk to a lawyer about your problem before filing your action. If you cannot afford to hire an attorney to represent you, you may be able to pay a lawyer to give you advice and review your paperwork for less cost. Contact the King County Bar Association Lawyer Referral Line for information about limited services representation. If you cannot afford these costs, there are limited free legal services available to low income people.

STEP 3: MAKE COPIES, FILE WITH THE CLERK, DELIVER WORKING PAPERS

Make 3 copies of your Declaration form, any witness Declarations, and any supporting evidence.

File the originals of your Declaration and any witness Declarations with the Clerk's Office by 12 noon, 4 court days prior to your hearing.

Deliver *Working Papers* (a copy of all your response documents) to the Family Law Coordinator by 12 noon, 4 court days prior to your hearing. In the top right hand corner of the first page of your Working Papers write the following:

WORKING PAPERS
FAMILY LAW MOTIONS
HEARING DATE: _____
HEARING TIME: _____
NAME: _____
(Your Name)

STEP 4: SERVE THE OTHER PARTY'S ATTORNEY

If the Petitioner is represented by an attorney in the Protection Order case, serve the attorney with a copy of your response documents by noon, 4 court days prior to the hearing. "Court days" do not include weekends or holidays.

If the Petitioner does not have an attorney, or it is not clear whether they have an attorney for the protection order case, bring the Petitioner's copies of your response to the hearing. Ask one of the court staff to direct you to a protection order advocate and ask that the advocate hand the papers to the Petitioner.

STEP 5: ATTEND THE HEARING

Arrive 30 minutes early for your hearing to check in. DO NOT BRING CHILDREN WITH YOU. YOU MAY HAVE TO WAIT UP TO 3 HOURS FOR YOUR CASE TO BE HEARD.

Bring the following to your hearing:

- Copies of all the documents the other party served you with;
- Copies of all your response documents.

After the hearing, wait for the Commissioner to sign all orders. Do not leave without a copy of whatever document(s) the Commissioner signed. All original documents signed by the Commissioner must be filed in the Clerk's Office

DO NOT LEAVE THE COURTHOUSE WITH THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT(S) SIGNED BY THE COMMISSIONER.

WARNING: These instructions are not a substitute for legal advice. The laws and court rules are complex and following these instructions will not guarantee you a favorable result. It is always advisable to talk to a lawyer about your problem before filing your action. (You may be able to hire a lawyer for a small fee to review your completed forms and talk about your problem but not represent you in court). If you need a lawyer, contact the Family Law Facilitators' Office for a *Legal Resources List* or call the King County Bar Association Lawyer Referral Line.